

Weekly National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON: SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1847.

No. 311.

PUBLISHED BY GALE & SEATON.

TERMS:

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR; OR ONE DOLLAR for the first regular session of Congress; and FIFTY CENTS for the final session of each Congress; and the same for each Extra Session—payable in all cases in advance.

THE MARCH UPON THE RIO GRANDE.

Our attention has been invited to the statements contained in the three following extracts—the one from the "Union" newspaper of this city, and the others from Baltimore papers; the two latter probably founded on the averments contained in the first. We have recently seen similar assertions in other papers:

FROM THE WASHINGTON "UNION" OF JUNE 2.
Extract of a letter to the Editor, dated May 22.
"I am a reader of the 'Weekly Union,' though not as closely as I would like to do, and therefore cannot call to mind, certainly, whether I have seen in the correspondence between Gen. Taylor and the President (prior to the marching of the army from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande opposite Matamoros) a recommendation of Gen. Taylor advising the movement. I have stated that Gen. Taylor recommended the move to the Department at Washington, and it has been disputed. You will do me the favor to send me the paper containing Gen. Taylor's letter to the War Department, advising that the army should move from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande."

[Instead of sending the paper asked for, which contains rather too much of the correspondence of Gen. Taylor to suit its apparent purpose, the "Union" proceeds to state "the facts as officially set forth" in its own way, by introducing an extract from the President's message and citing a part of the correspondence. It then continues:]

"Meanwhile, the Mexicans were collecting troops on the frontier, first under AMPUDIA, and then under ARISTA; and, in fact, it turned out afterwards that they were instructed to cross and attack our men. Seeing the *blow was coming*, unless an effort was made to prevent it, Gen. Taylor writes as follows to the SECRETARY, on the 4th October, 1845, from Corpus Christi."

[And then follows, in the "Union," so much of the letter referred to as shows that Gen. Taylor hypothetically suggested the movement upon the Rio Grande; taking care, however, not to disclose the fact that he subsequently withdrew that suggestion, unless it were determined to abandon negotiation. We insert this correspondence more at large below, including not only those parts copied by the "Union," but all other of its parts that have any relation to the subject under discussion.]

FROM THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER OF JUNE 7.

On the one hand, it is contended that no just cause of war existed, and that it was purely a presidential act, and hence contrary to the constitution; whilst on the other it is maintained that hostilities commenced with Mexico, by attacking the American army upon our own soil. In considering this subject the object in view should be to arrive at truth. Prejudice or party feeling should not be permitted to bias the judgment or influence the decision. It is no doubt true that the stationing of our army opposite Matamoros, on the Rio Grande, produced the collision at the time it occurred. Whether it could have been permitted to remain undisturbed on the Nueces, is uncertain. In consequence of the annexation of Texas, Mexico assumed a hostile attitude, raised armies and marched towards Texas, with the declaration that she would reconquer the territory. To resist this attempt, should it be made, Gen. Taylor was ordered by the President to proceed to Texas with his forces, where he encamped on the banks of the Nueces. Seeing that the Mexican army had reached Matamoros, and was making demonstrations of crossing the line which Texas claimed, the President ordered our army to proceed to the position opposite Matamoros.

FROM THE BALTIMORE REPUBLICAN OF JUNE 14.
When no actual hostilities followed the suspension of diplomatic intercourse, [with Mexico], then the war must be charged upon some subsequent act of the American Government. This act, the Whigs charge, was the march from the Nueces to the Rio Grande, which they assert "MADE THE WAR." In reference to that march it is now known that it was first suggested and advised by Brigadier General Zachary Taylor, as in his opinion likely to facilitate and hasten the settlement of our difficulties with Mexico. Four months after this advice was given, the order to occupy the left bank of the Rio Grande was issued. This was in consequence of the contumacious rejection of Mr. Sillidell, which left us no other alternative than to assert our rights by force of arms. No hostile step was taken by our forces until self-defence rendered it necessary.

In view of the allegations contained in the foregoing extracts, we cannot help remarking how very careless in their facts are the Editors of the "Union," even when evidently writing with official data before them. That, for the entire responsibility of removing our army to the Rio Grande, the Administration can claim no exemption on the plea of any such recommendation as is above ascribed to Gen. TAYLOR, has been already proved by reference to the printed Public Documents. That there were no such threatening preparations on that frontier, by the Mexicans, as the language above employed would induce the public to believe, is also established by the same documents. If the case were as it is there stated, it would exhibit a necessity for a change of position from the Nueces which did not exist at the time the Executive order for it was given; the movement being then *no more necessary for the protection of the people of Texas from an invasion by Mexico than it was to protect from a like invasion the people of this District.*

We aver that Gen. TAYLOR did not "see the blowing coming," or "see a Mexican army at Matamoros making demonstrations of crossing the line," until more than two months after he was peremptorily ordered to occupy the disputed territory on the Rio Grande. On the contrary, so far from discovering any such hostile demonstrations—from the time his camp was fairly established on the Nueces and his arrangements completed for obtaining accurate information—all his despatches to the War Department, prior to its order directing a forward movement, were singularly uniform in representing the frontier to be quiet, without any indication of approaching hostilities on the part of the Mexican people, whether citizens or soldiers; nor was this pacific aspect of affairs in that vicinity changed until Gen. TAYLOR had partially carried the Presidential mandate into execution. All this is clearly deducible from the correspondence of the War Department, from which, in order to set this matter right, we quote as briefly as possible those parts that have a direct bearing upon this point:

EXTRACTS FROM GEN. TAYLOR'S DESPATCHES.
CORPUS CHRISTI, AUGUST 20, 1845.—"CAVANS of traders arrive occasionally from the Rio Grande, but bring no news of importance. They represent that there are no regular troops on that river, except at Matamoros, and do not seem to be aware of any preparations for a demonstration upon this bank of the river."

AUGUST 26.—"In regard to employing volunteers from Texas . . . I shall now communicate with President Jones, and ascertain the number of volunteers that can be called into service in case of an invasion by Mexico, and shall take the necessary steps to arm and employ that force, should the safety of the country require it. I feel confident, however, that such necessity will not arise."

AUGUST 30.—"We have no news from the Rio Grande. Idle stories are brought in from that quarter, but, with the

means of accurate information we now possess, I do not deem it necessary to repeat them."

SEPTEMBER 6.—"I have the honor to report that a confidential agent, dispatched some days since to Matamoros, has returned, and reports that no extraordinary preparations are going on there; that the garrison does not seem to have been increased; and that our Consul is of opinion there will be no declaration of war. . . . Nothing definite can be learned in relation to the march of troops from the interior. A body of three thousand men was reported in march to Matamoros, but the information is too vague to merit confidence. The agent, who is intelligent, and upon whose statements a good deal of reliance may, I think, be safely placed, says that the mass of the people with whom he mingled is opposed to a war with us."

SEPTEMBER 14.—"In view of the large reinforcements of regular troops ordered to join me, I cannot believe that it will become necessary, under any circumstances, to employ volunteers from the United States. . . . I have directed two of the companies from Red River to San Antonio, retaining one at Austin. With a company of mounted rangers at each place the frontier will be secure from insult. The commander of the rangers at San Antonio (Major Hays) has reputation as a partisan, and to him I have specially entrusted the duty of keeping me advised of any movements on the Rio Grande, in the neighborhood of Laredo. . . . We have no news of interest from the frontier. Arista, at the last accounts, was at Mier, but without any force; nor is there as yet any concentration of force on the river. A report reached San Antonio a few days since that preparations were making to receive troops at Laredo. This I consider very doubtful; but, if troops arrive there, I shall expect to receive early information of the fact from San Antonio."

OCTOBER 4.—"Mexico [has] as yet made no positive declaration of war, or committed any overt act of hostilities. . . . Should an auxiliary force be required, I propose to draw it wholly from Texas. I do not conceive that it will become necessary, under any circumstances, to call for volunteers from the United States."

OCTOBER 11.—"Recent arrivals from the Rio Grande bring no news or information of a different aspect from that which I reported in my last. The views expressed in my previous communication relative to the pacific disposition of the border people, on both sides of the river, are continually confirmed."

NOVEMBER 7.—"I respectfully enclose a copy of a letter from Commodore Conner, commanding the home squadron. This letter is dated on board the ship *Falmouth*, off Vera Cruz, on the 24th October. In it the Commodore says: 'No troops have marched towards the frontier for a length of time, and I am told by Mr. Parrott, who left Mexico a few days since, that many of Arista's officers had returned to that city in a state of utter poverty.'"

NOVEMBER 19.—"Should the present pacific aspect of our relations with Mexico continue, it will not be necessary to continue this force [the Texas rangers] in service, except possibly one company as guides."

The next despatch from General Taylor is dated on the 7th of January, and, consequently, the above are all that could have reached Washington at the time the march to the Rio Grande was directed by an Order from Headquarters in this city. That order bears date on the 13th of January, 1846, and was received at Corpus Christi on the 4th of February ensuing. Bearing in mind its date, we invite the reader to a still further examination of the correspondence, that he may note the course of events after the order was given:

EXTRACTS FROM GEN. TAYLOR'S DESPATCHES.

CORPUS CHRISTI, JANUARY 7, 1846.—"For the information of the General-in-Chief and War Department, I make the following extract from a private letter lately received at this place from our Consul at Matamoros, and dated December 24, 1845: 'Our accounts from the interior are that Gen. Paredes, at San Luis, is about rising against the Government. It is given out that he and his party are against treating with the United States. . . . Gen. Arista feels quiet, to see, perhaps, what success attends Gen. Paredes. In this part of the country the people are in favor of peace, and I should judge, of a treaty with the United States; but a considerable excitement has been produced by the news from Gen. Paredes.'"

So says the Consul at Matamoros. Gen. Taylor adds: "We have many arrivals from other points on the river, but they bring no intelligence of interest. A recent scout of volunteers from San Antonio struck the river Presidio Rio Grande, and the commander reports every thing quiet in that quarter."

FEBRUARY 4.—"I have every reason to believe that the people residing on the river are well disposed towards our Government."

FEBRUARY 16.—"I have informed Commodore Conner that I am about to move to the Rio Grande, under instructions from the Department of War."

MARCH 8.—"I respectfully report that the advance of the army, composed of the cavalry and Major Ringgold's light artillery, the whole under the command of Col. Twiggs, took up the line of march this morning in the direction of Matamoros. . . . I have deemed it proper to cause my Orders No. 30 to be translated into Spanish and circulated on the Rio Grande. Sixty copies have already been sent, in ADVANCE OF THE ARMY, to Matamoros, Camargo, and Mier."

MARCH 12.—(General Taylor having now proceeded thirty-one miles on his way to the Rio Grande.) "The different columns are advancing with great regularity, and without any obstacle worthy of note. . . . Commodore Conner writes by the brig *Poisson* from Vera Cruz, under date of March 2d."

In the letter here mentioned by Gen. Taylor the Commodore says: "The papers of the capital state that within the last ten days a force of nearly eight thousand men, including a large portion of the garrison of Mexico, has marched for the northern frontier. It is the general opinion here that the present state of affairs cannot last for any length of time. With the exception of the military, the recent revolution is received by all classes with much dissatisfaction. Even a union of the Federalists with the Santa Annaists is spoken of as probable for the overthrow of the present party. Mr. Sillidell is still at Jalapa, and, unlikely as it may appear, I have it from very good authority that it is probable he will yet be received by the Mexican Government."

MARCH 18, (one hundred and nineteen miles from Corpus Christi.) "Within the last two days our advance has met with small armed parties of Mexicans, who seemed disposed to avoid us. They were, doubtless, thrown out to get information of our advance."

MARCH 21, (camp three miles south of the Arroyo Colorado.) On the 19th the advanced corps encamped within three miles of the ford, and a reconnaissance was pushed forward to the river. A party of irregular cavalry (rancheros) was discovered on the opposite bank, but there was no obstacle in the way of examining the ford. They, however, signified to the officer charged with the reconnaissance that it would be considered an act of hostility if we attempted to pass the river, and that we should, in that case, be treated as enemies. . . . While dispositions [to cross the river] were in progress, the party that had shown themselves the day before again made their appearance. I sent Capt. Mansfield to communicate with the officer in command, who said that he had positive orders to fire on us if we attempted to cross the river. Another party then made its appearance, and passed the river to communicate with me. One of them (who was represented as the Adjutant General of the Mexican troops) repeated substantially what had been said before, viz: that they had peremptory orders to fire upon us, and that it would

be considered a declaration of war if we passed the river. He placed in my hands at the same time a proclamation of Gen. Mejia, issued at Matamoros a day or two previous. . . . I have thought it proper to make a detailed report of this operation, as being the first occasion on which the Mexicans have showed themselves in an attitude decidedly hostile. . . . A few rancheros are still on the route hence to Matamoros. It is believed that there may be nearly two thousand troops in that place, but what proportion of regular troops I cannot state with confidence. The arrival of Gen. Ampudia is expected from the interior."

MARCH 25, (from Point Isabel.) "While on my way hither, our column was approached by a party on its right flank, bearing a white flag. It proved to be a civil deputation from Matamoros, desiring an interview with me. . . . The deputation halted while yet some miles from Point Isabel, declining to come further, and sent me a formal protest of the Prefect of the northern district of Tamaulipas against our occupation of the country. At this moment it was discovered that the buildings at Point Isabel were in flames. I then informed the bearer of the protest that I would answer it from opposite Matamoros, and dismissed the deputation. I considered the conflagration before my eyes as a decided evidence of hostility, and was not willing to be trifled with any longer. . . . We found two or three inoffensive Mexicans here, the rest having left for Matamoros."

MARCH 29, (from the left bank of the Rio Grande, opposite Matamoros.) "I have the honor to repeat that I arrived at this camp yesterday with the forces under my command, no resistance having been offered to my advance to the banks of the river. . . . Our approach seems to have created much excitement in Matamoros, and a great deal of activity has been displayed, since our arrival, in the preparation of batteries. The attitude of the Mexicans is decidedly hostile. An interview has been held by my direction with the military authorities in Matamoros, but with no satisfactory result. Under this state of things, I must again and urgently call your attention to the necessity of speedily sending recruits to this army. The militia of Texas are so remote from the border that we cannot depend upon their aid."

APRIL 6, (from Camp opposite Matamoros.) "I have to report no material change in the aspect of affairs here since my despatch of the 29th ultimo. The Mexicans still retain a hostile attitude, and have thrown up some works, evidently designed to prevent us from crossing the river. . . . On our side a battery for four eighteen pounders will be completed and the guns placed in battery to-day. These guns bear directly on the public square of Matamoros, and within good range for demolishing the town. Their object cannot be mistaken by the enemy, and will, I think, effectually restrain him from any enterprises upon our side of the river. . . . The Mexican authorities persist in considering our march as an act of war in itself, and I believe they would so treat it, and attempt to drive us from our position, if they felt sufficient confidence in their strength. I have no very accurate information as to the number of regular troops in Matamoros, but I am quite confident it does not reach two thousand, and they are of very bad description, and miserably armed."

APRIL 15, (from Camp near Matamoros.) "I have to report that on the 11th instant General Ampudia arrived at Matamoros with two hundred cavalry, the remainder of his force, variously estimated from two to three thousand men, being some distance rear, on the route from Monterey. . . . On the 12th I received from Gen. Ampudia a despatch, summoning me to withdraw my force within twenty-four hours, and to fall back beyond the river Nueces. To this communication I replied on the 12th, saying that I should not retrograde from my position. I considered the letter of Gen. Ampudia sufficient to warrant me in blocking up the Rio Grande, and stopping all supplies for Matamoros. Notwithstanding the alternative of war presented by General Ampudia, no hostile movement has yet been made by his force."

In the letter of Gen. Ampudia accompanying the above despatch, that officer thus addresses Gen. Taylor:

"Your Government, in an incredible manner—you will even permit me to say an extravagant one, if the usage or general rules established and received among all civilized nations are regarded—has not only insulted, but has exasperated the Mexican nation, in bearing its conquering banner to the left bank of the Rio del Norte; and in this case, by explicit and definite orders of my Government, which neither can, nor should receive new outages, I require you, in all form, and at the latest in the peremptory term of twenty-four hours, to break up your camp and retire to the other bank of the Nueces river while our Governments are regulating the pending question in relation to Texas. If you persist in remaining upon the soil of the Department of Tamaulipas, it will clearly result that arms, and arms alone, must decide the question."

Gen. Taylor replied that, being "charged in only a military capacity with the performance of specific duties," he could "not enter into a discussion of the international question involved in the advance of the American army," and that "the instructions under which he was acting would not permit him to retrograde from the position he had occupied," &c.

WAR quickly ensued, as a matter of course, and no one who reads the documents relating to the subject can be at a loss for its cause. Even the Secretary of War, in his annual report which was laid before Congress at the opening of its last session, explains it to have been precipitated and brought on by the march to the Rio Grande. Near the beginning of that report, upon announcing the change of position of our army from Corpus Christi, the Secretary says:

"Notwithstanding the object of the movement of our troops was made known, and all intention of doing more than peacefully to occupy the territory of Texas was discovered, soon after the arrival of the army on the Rio Grande a hostile feeling began to be manifested by the Mexican forces stationed on the border. . . . I cannot doubt that the settlement will be greatly facilitated and hastened by our taking possession at once of one or two suitable points on or quite near that river. Our strength and state of preparation should be displayed in a manner not to be mistaken. However salutary may be the effect produced upon the border people by our presence here, we are now at the frontier to impress the Government of Mexico with our readiness to vindicate, by force of arms, if necessary, our title to the country as far as the Rio Grande. The 'army of occupation' will in a few days be concentrated at this point, in condition for vigorous and efficient service. Mexico having as yet made no positive declaration of war, or committed any overt act of hostilities, I do not feel at liberty, under my instructions, particularly those of July 8th, to make a forward movement to the Rio Grande without authority from the War Department."

It is behind the suggestion contained in the above letter, and which suggestion is made to hang upon a contingency of which the writer could know nothing, that it is attempted to shield the President

solved from any part of its civil responsibility to obtain a boundary by negotiation, as was intended by Congress in passing the law for the annexation of Texas.

In anticipation of the acceptance by Texas of the terms proffered by our Government for incorporating that Republic with the United States, Gen. TAYLOR was directed by the War Department, on the 15th of June, 1845, to advance to the mouth of the Sabine river, or such other point on the Gulf of Mexico as might be most convenient for an embarkation at the proper time for the Western frontier of Texas. According to Mr. DONELSON, our Minister in Texas who conducted the negotiation for her admission into the Union, this frontier, on the sea border, was Corpus Christi, that being "the most western point" of territory "occupied by Texas." But, in the letter above cited, Gen. TAYLOR was informed that he was ultimately to "select and occupy" a position "on or near the Rio Grande del Norte." He was afterwards instructed, on the 8th of July, that Mexico had some military establishments on the east side of the river, which he was not to disturb unless an actual state of war should exist. On the 30th of July another communication stated that the President could not give "positive directions" as to the position he ought to take, but that he was expected to occupy and defend the territory of Texas to the extent that it had been occupied by the people of Texas; (which, we repeat, would have been to Corpus Christi.) Yet in this letter Gen. TAYLOR was informed that our Government claimed the Rio Grande as the boundary, and he was to protect the territory, but not disturb the settlements or military posts of the Mexicans. He was also to approach as near the Rio Grande as circumstances would permit, and it was especially desirable that a part of his forces at least should be posted west of the Nueces. On the 23d of August he was again told that more explicit instructions in regard to his movements could not be given, but, if a Mexican force should cross the Rio Grande, it must be regarded as an invasion of the United States and the commencement of hostilities; that Texas, as claimed by the Executive, must be protected; and he was informed by what means his force was to be increased, if necessary. On the 30th of August he was advised of the importance of closely observing the movements of the Mexicans at "Matamoros, Monterey, and other places," and was directed, if any force should cross the river, to repulse the invaders, and drive all Mexican troops beyond the river; that even an attempt at crossing must be regarded as invasion, &c.

There appears to have been no other despatch from the Department previous to the 4th of October, under which date Gen. TAYLOR—perplexed, no doubt, as to the intentions of the Government, and desiring some more clear and definite expression of its wishes—unwilling to assume an undue responsibility, and yet apprehensive of falling short of a soldier's duty—addressed to the Department a letter, of which we give the material part, as follows:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Corpus Christi, Texas, October 4, 1845.
SIR: I beg leave to suggest some considerations in relation to the present position of our forces, and the dispositions which may become necessary for the more effectual prosecution of the objects for which it has been concentrated. It will be recollected that the instructions of June 15th, issued by Mr. Bancroft, then acting Secretary of War, directed me to "select and occupy, on or near the Rio Grande, such a site as will be consistent with the health of the force, and will be best adapted to repel invasion," &c. . . . BRACKEN SALTADO is the nearest town to the mouth of the Rio Grande, and POINT ISABEL, within that entrance, and twenty-one miles from Matamoros, would have fulfilled more completely than any other position the conditions imposed by the Secretary. But we had no artillery, no engineer force or appliances, and a moderate amount of infantry, and the occupation of Point Isabel, under these circumstances, and with at least the possibility of resistance from the Mexicans, might have compromised the safety of the command. I therefore determined to take up the next accessible position in the rear, which is the mouth of the Nueces river. All the information which I could obtain before leaving New Orleans seemed to point to Corpus Christi as the most suitable point for concentration; and although, before the President's instructions of July 30th reached me, I would have preferred a position on the left bank of the river, yet a careful examination of the country had already convinced me that none could be found combining so many advantages as this. Every day's experience has confirmed these impressions. Corpus Christi is healthy, easily supplied, and well situated to hold in observation the course of the Rio Grande from Matamoros to Laredo—being about 150 miles from several points on the river. I have reason to believe, moreover, that a salutary moral effect has been exercised upon the Mexicans. Their traders are continually carrying home the news of our position and increasing numbers, and are consequently struck by the spectacle of a large camp of well-appointed and disciplined troops, accompanied by perfect security to their persons and property, instead of the impressment and pillage to which they are subject in their own country. For these reasons, our position thus far, I think, has been the best possible; but, now that the entire force will soon be concentrated, it may well be a question whether the views of Government will be best carried out by our remaining at this point. It is with great deference that I make any suggestions on topics which may become matter of delicate negotiation; but, if our Government, in settling the question of boundary, makes the Rio Grande, as the most suitable point for concentration; and if, in the event of annexation, we will be careful to avoid any act of aggression unless an actual state of war should exist. The Mexican forces at the posts in their possession, and which have been so, will not be disturbed as long as the relations of peace between the United States and Mexico continue. . . . GEORGE BANCROFT.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Corpus Christi, Texas, November 7, 1845.

SIR: I respectfully enclose a copy of a letter from Commodore Conner, commanding the home squadron, which I received by the "Saratoga" ship-of-war on the 5th instant. The intelligence communicated by the Commodore will doubtless reach the seat of Government long before the receipt of this letter.

The communication from the Secretary of War, dated October 16, was received and acknowledged on the 1st and 2d instant. I purposely deferred a detailed reply to the various points embraced in that communication until I could receive an answer to mine of October 4, which covered (at least in part) the same ground.

The intelligence from Mexico, however, tends to modify in some degree the views expressed in that communication. THE POSITION NOW OCCUPIED BY THE TROOPS MAY PERHAPS BE THE BEST WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PENDING, or at any rate until a disposition shall be manifested by Mexico to prosecute them unreasonably.

Under the supposition that such may be the view of the Department, I shall make no movement from this point, except for the purpose of examining the country, until further instructions are received. . . . Z. TAYLOR, Brig. Gen. U.S. Army.

The Department, it seems, sent no other communication to Gen. TAYLOR until that of the 13th of January, in which he was peremptorily ordered to advance his position. This, be it remembered, was done while Mr. SILLIDELL yet remained in Mexico, and two months before he was finally rejected. Now, keeping in view these all-important facts, we submit it to the candor of our Democratic friends to say whether the advice contained in Gen. Taylor's first letter was not at least neutralized by the views expressed in the last one; and whether under these circumstances, he should be held accountable for having recommended the movement which caused the war, as they have so repeatedly stated? If they will only publish all the facts in the case, they are welcome to whatever political capital they can make out of it.

INDIANA PUBLIC DEBT.—The Indiana Journal of the 11th instant states that Governor WHITCOMB has appointed Mr. N. B. PALMER, of Indianapolis, the trustee on the part of the State to act in connection with Messrs. BUTLER and BLAKE, appointed on the part of the bondholders, in carrying out the arrangements with reference to the State debt under the law of last winter. The Journal says: "Messrs. BLAKE and PALMER left this city yesterday for Fort Wayne, where they will meet Mr. BUTLER for the purpose of organizing and taking steps for the immediate prosecution of the Wabash and Erie Canal."

ILLINOIS CONVENTION.—The Convention to frame a new Constitution for the State of Illinois assembled at Springfield on the 7th. It is composed of 162 members, 157 of whom were in attendance. NEWTON CLOUD was elected President, and Henry W. Moore was chosen Secretary and John A. Wilson doorkeeper.

SAMUEL WEIR, Esq., Editor of the Columbus (S. C.) Chronicle, died on the 8th instant, after a most painful and protracted illness.

for an act of his, done three months after the advice was volunteered, in relation to a very delicate question that was liable at any moment to assume a new complexion, on account of the varying condition of affairs with which it was connected. But do the authors of this effort at deception themselves believe what they would impose upon others? Do they suppose that the counsel of Gen. TAYLOR, in this case, possessed such weight with the Executive as to have influenced the movement which it suggests? Do they not know the contrary; and do not such of them as have seen the printed documents also know that Gen. TAYLOR, being fully authorized so to do, declined to pursue his own counsel, as now cited in defence of the President, a short time after it was given? For the benefit of those who do not know these things, we will endeavor to render them as plain as can be done in the brief time and space remaining at our disposal.

The first point is readily settled by a reference to the Correspondence of the War Department, (above recapitulated.) Its contents having now become known to almost every one, it is only necessary to call to mind the fact that the original instructions to Gen. TAYLOR of the 15th of June, 1845, distinctly named the Rio Grande as the ultimate destination of his army, and that all his subsequent instructions as directly pointed to the same line as the boundary and the most desirable position to be occupied. Thus, nearly four months before the General ventured to tender his advice in the matter, we have from the War Department unquestionable evidence that it was the intention of the Executive to move the army upon the Rio Grande entirely of its own accord.

The second point is made manifest by the events which followed the writing of Gen. Taylor's letter of the 4th of October. That letter passed, on its way to Washington, one from the War Department to the General, dated on the 16th of the same month. In this letter Gen. Taylor was informed that the Government had information which rendered it probable that no serious attempt would be made by Mexico to invade Texas; that previous instructions had put him in possession of the views of his Government, not only as to the extent of its territorial claims, but of its determination to assert them; that, in carrying out these instructions, he would be left very much to his own judgment; that he must approach as near the Rio Grande as circumstances would permit; that he need not wait for directions from Washington to carry out what he might deem proper to be done, &c.

Here, again, be it observed, that before the receipt of General Taylor's suggestion, he was again directed to approach as near the Rio Grande as circumstances would permit. But what is most deserving of particular notice is, that under this last letter of the Secretary of War, Gen. Taylor is fully empowered to pursue the counsel which he had just transmitted to the Executive. Did he do this? No; a change had occurred in the situation of affairs which led to a modification of his own opinion, and he at once informed the Department that he should not move from the position he then occupied until he received further instructions. We quote the essential part of this letter, as follows:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Corpus Christi, Texas, November 7, 1845.

SIR: I respectfully enclose a copy of a letter from Commodore Conner, commanding the home squadron, which I received by the "Saratoga" ship-of-war on the 5th instant. The intelligence communicated by the Commodore will doubtless reach the seat of Government long before the receipt of this letter.

The communication from the Secretary of War, dated October 16, was received and acknowledged on the 1st and 2d instant. I purposely deferred a detailed reply to the various points embraced in that communication until I could receive an answer to mine of October 4, which covered (at least in part) the same ground.

The intelligence from Mexico, however, tends to modify in some degree the views expressed in that communication. THE POSITION NOW OCCUPIED BY THE TROOPS MAY PERHAPS BE THE BEST WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PENDING, or at any rate until a disposition shall be manifested by Mexico to prosecute them unreasonably.

Under the supposition that such may be the view of the Department, I shall make no movement from this point, except for the purpose of examining the country, until further instructions are received. . . . Z. TAYLOR, Brig. Gen. U.S. Army.

The Department, it seems, sent no other communication to Gen. TAYLOR until that of the 13th of January, in which he was peremptorily ordered to advance his position. This, be it remembered, was done while Mr. SILLIDELL yet remained in Mexico, and two months before he was finally rejected. Now, keeping in view these all-important facts, we submit it to the candor of our Democratic friends to say whether the advice contained in Gen. Taylor's first letter was not at least neutralized by the views expressed in the last one; and whether under these circumstances, he should be held accountable for having recommended the movement which caused the war, as they have so repeatedly stated? If they will only publish all the facts in the case, they are welcome to whatever political capital they can make out of it.

INDIANA PUBLIC DEBT.—The Indiana Journal of the 11th instant states that Governor WHITCOMB has appointed Mr. N. B. PALMER, of Indianapolis, the trustee on the part of the State to act in connection with Messrs. BUTLER and BLAKE, appointed on the part of the bondholders, in carrying out the arrangements with reference to the State debt under the law of last winter. The Journal says: "Messrs. BLAKE and PALMER left this city yesterday for Fort Wayne, where they will meet Mr. BUTLER for the purpose of organizing and taking steps for the immediate prosecution of the Wabash and Erie Canal."

ILLINOIS CONVENTION.—The Convention to frame a new Constitution for the State of Illinois assembled at Springfield on the 7th. It is composed of 162 members, 157 of whom were in attendance. NEWTON CLOUD was elected President, and Henry W. Moore was chosen Secretary and John A. Wilson doorkeeper.

SAMUEL WEIR, Esq., Editor of the Columbus (S. C.) Chronicle, died on the 8th instant, after a most painful and protracted illness.

THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 20, 1847.

I mentioned in my letter yesterday that Chevalier de LISBOA has been recalled by his Government. I merely write to confirm my statement by giving the very words of his recall. These are brief, curt, and evidently expressive of high displeasure, viz: "The Emperor deems it convenient to deprive Chevalier Gaspar Jose Lisboa of his present position as Minister Plenipotentiary near the United States."

The relations of the United States with Brazil are at this moment so unfriendly that it will require good management and much forbearance to avoid a rupture.

The Mayor of this city has received from ANDREW F. ROCHE, Esq., Mayor of the city of Cork, the subjoined eloquent letter, acknowledging the receipt of the supply of provisions sent by the citizens of Washington in April last, in the barque General Harrison, for the relief of the destitute people of Ireland:

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CORK, MAY 17, 1847.

SIR: I am charged by the citizens of Cork to express to you, and to the Irish Relief Committee of Washington, their warmest acknowledgments for the truly noble gift conveyed to their poor in the "General Harrison." I wish it were in my power to express as I feel it, and as it is felt generally by our people, the admiration and respect inspired by the conduct of the American people in the present most calamitous circumstances of this country; but I may truly say that there is one grateful prayer universal on the lips and in the hearts of Irishmen, that America may reap a rich and high reward for the generous sympathy and truly christian benevolence she has exhibited to one of the great families of mankind in an hour of deep distress.

I have the honor to transmit a Vote of Thanks from the Corporation of Cork, and, on my own behalf, I beg to cordially thank you for having made me the agent of the bounty of your fellow-citizens, and to assure you that it shall be distributed to the most destitute, without distinction, fairly and impartially.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obliged and obedient servant, ANDREW F. ROCHE, Mayor of Cork.

W. W. SEATON, Esq., Chairman Washington Committee.

The gallant tars of the Frigate "United States" have sent their sympathy to the famishing poor of Ireland and Scotland, in a manner which does them the highest credit. The following letter will tell the rest:

U. S. FRIGATE "UNITED STATES,"

Porto Praya, Cape Verde Islands, May 14, 1847.

MY DEAR MR. HARVEY: The distressing accounts brought from the United States of the sufferings of the poor in Ireland and Scotland have caused a feeling of deep concern for their unfortunate condition, which has been manifested in a substantial manner by the officers and crew of this ship.

Without having been prompted, they came forward and offered to raise a contribution in money. The amount collected might have been larger, but for the necessity of limiting and regulating subscriptions made by seamen, in consequence of the unequal donations which they would otherwise make. It was therefore found proper to fix the amount which each should give.

A bill drawn upon the Hon. the Secretary for the sum of \$653 is herewith enclosed. We are aware that it is but the "straw's end of the iceberg," when compared with the amount subscribed by our kind-hearted people at home, yet we trust that it will effect some good, and that it may reach its destination in time to relieve the suffering of many individuals.

With sincere good wishes for your future health and happiness, I am, yours truly, J. B. HEDD, Comdg. U. S. Naval Forces, West Coast of Africa.

To JACOB HARVEY, Esq.

A PEEP AT THE OLDEN TIME.

Workmen are now busily employed in pulling down the old edifice in Chestnut street, Philadelphia, recently occupied by the Bank of North America, preparatory to the erection of a new structure. Among the papers stored away in the garret of this venerable pile of brick and mortar (says the Philadelphia Bulletin) some old newspapers have been found, which, compared with the large sheets of the present day, are quite a curiosity. We have been furnished with one of these relics of the olden time. It is entitled "The American Weekly Mercury," published at Philadelphia by Andrew Bradford, and bearing date November 28, 1728. In order that our readers may form an idea how some things were managed